

NEWS RELEASE

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Safe travel tips for the holidays

Richland, Wash.: Many local residents will be traveling by car to visit friends and relatives in neighboring towns and states during the holidays. With the recent tragedy in southern Oregon, residents are reminded to be prepared for breakdowns or emergencies by taking along food, water, tools, clothing and other gear in a roadside emergency kit.

Make sure to map out your trip route and then check road and weather conditions along the way. Let friends or relatives know what route you are taking and your intended arrival time. If delayed for any reason, notify them as soon as possible.

If you become stranded or lost along the way, use your cell phone to call 9-1-1. Be ready to provide as much information as possible about your location to help emergency responders find you. And, unless you can see an immediate source of assistance within close proximity, stay with your car. During winter storms, you can become disoriented and lost within minutes after leaving your car to find help.

Washington weather and road conditions are available by calling 5-1-1 or on the Internet at www.wsdot.wa.gov/travel. Information for Oregon can be accessed by calling (503) 588-2941 (511 while in Oregon) or at www.tripcheck.com on the Internet. Travelers can check condition in Idaho by calling (888) 432-7623 or going to <http://511.idaho.gov/> on the Internet.

Plan ahead to make this a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

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NOTE to Editors: The attached page contains a list of recommended items that could be included in a roadside emergency kit.

Roadside Emergency Kit For Winter Travelers

- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Cell phone (charged and in vehicle)
- Small Shovel
- Sack of sand or kitty litter for traction
- First Aid Kit
- Tire chains and appropriate tools
- Fire extinguisher
- Flares, warning triangles or reflectors
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Battery powered radio
- Games/books
- Extra clothing, including warm coats, gloves and hats
- Jumper cables
- Bottled water and non-perishable, high-energy foods, such as granola bars.